

PRICE 40p

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'STICK IT IN YOUR EAR!'

"STICK IT IN YOUR EAR!"
THE CASSETTE MAGAZINE FOR
DIY'ERS, WITH OVER 80 TAPES
REVIEWED & OTHER RELATED
ARTICLES.



Photo: Roger Kennedy

Thanks for your response to issue 1. We've recieved lots of letters & are slowly working our way through the pile-but please remember to enclose a sae if you'd like a reply. Every little bit helps. Included in this issue besides our 'views' of various tapes,are a couple of articles which should hopefully be of interest to DIY tapers.

Keep the postmen in employment by sending us your tapes,articles,& anything else for inclusion.We aim to include every tape that's sent, so if you wish to release a tape we can hopefully help you to sell it.

Anyone foolhardy enough to wish to reproduce any part of this magazine please write & ask first!

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Special thanks to all the advertisers for their support,without whose help etc...also those who sent tapes for review,& the following for their articles:-

Protag..."Doing your own thing" (page 5)
Paul Wells..."Philip Johnson" (page 10)
Phil Tyler..."About the BBC..." (page 14)
Tony Clough..."Music,motive,market,method" (page 19)
John Clare..."Collector's classics" (page 21)
& finally,grateful thanks to Roger Kennedy for his excellent cover photo.

All communications/tapes/articles etc (together with an sae if a reply is required) to:-
GEOFF WALL,9 GLADSTONE ROAD,SHOLING,SOUTHAMPTON,
SO2 8GU,HANTS

Copies of back issue No 1 (Jan 1981),available from the above address at 40p-payable to G.WALL.

THE STORY SO FAR

It appears that record companies have finally got the message that more people now own tape machines than record players,& that if they release tape versions of their product,this may help them with their 'home taping problem' (if such a problem actually exists,which I seriously doubt!). The so called 'scourge' of home taping has already driven the British Phonographic Industry (BPI),in search of a 'compensatory' levy on blank tapes to recoup the 'millions a year in lost sales'.

Island Records decision to market their "One plus one" cassette range is I feel, a more realistic response to the whole question of home taping,& is far more positive move than the BPI's attempts to deal with a phenomenon that is 'too wide spread to reassert control over'. Retailing at £3.99,the new product is on chrome tape,& is both pre-recorded & blank. Side A features an entire album of songs,& side B is blank tape which can be used in the normal way. The first tape that was to have been released was Steve Winwood's "Arc of a diver",with all other Island LPs following shortly. This not only represents a substantial price cut in the pre-recorded cassette field,but the moral difference between buying a "One plus one" cassette with enough space for a 'free' album on the other side & buying,for instance,an EMI blank tape for the same purpose is not going to bother most music fans.

The BPI took the view that Island Records was infact 'a blatant encouragement to home tape',& expressed its 'abhorrence of providing blank tape to consumers in this fashion'. They tried to get retailers to refuse to stock these cassettes & made representations to get Island to change their minds. Boots chain of stores agreed not to stock the Winwood tape until the matter is resolved,& other dealers & distributors are being pressed to follow suit. The BPI also got promises from both EMI & Virgin that they would disown all subsequent "One plus one" stock.

Island declared their 'extreme disappointment' at the BPI's reaction,& emphasized their reasons for the tape series:it is moving in line with the sale of equipment,with more tape players than hi-fi systems being sold in Britain,it is cheaper & provides better sound quality than existing tapes,it should take away sales from existing blank tape market,& if followed up by other companies,should more than compensate for £200m the industry reckons it loses each year through blank cassettes. In other words-the record industry has been largely unresponsive to the changing trends! Certainly the BPI can't legally ban the series if Island proves intransigent,& their best hope probably lies in trying to get the retailers to refuse to stock it.

The cassette market is the one booming sector of an industry in deep financial trouble. Increasing numbers of people are now buying music on cassette instead of on record & Island's series is an attempt to gain a slice of that market! It's thought Island are still committed to producing all future tapes in the "One plus one" mode &, if necessary,an independent pressing & distribution deal will be found. The best of luck to them!

G.W.



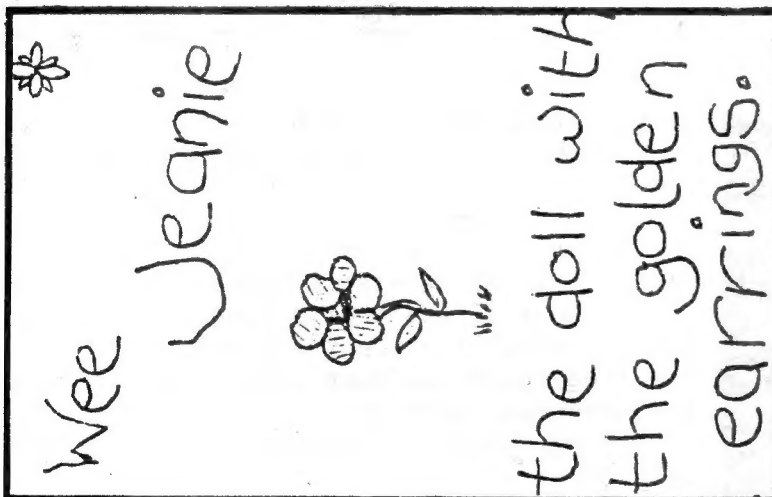
THE STRAY CATS-"STRUT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA"-20.11.80" (bootleg) C30

Thirty minutes of electricity-this dynamic trio from New York & Top of the Pops strut their stuff live on the boards at Norwich,& boy are they good! I'm reminded of those wonderful Gene Vincent Capitol LPs of the late 50's,with enthusiastic screams & shouts from the band,that slap of the double bass, & those superb guitar solos with that distinct clipped treble sound. They really sound exciting,& listening to this tape I certainly can understand what all the fuss is about.

ELVIS COSTELLO-"10 BLOODY MARY'S & 10 HOW'S YOUR FATHERS"
F-BEAT XXC6

Available from most record shops. £4

This is the UK,tape only version,of the recent US import LP "Taking Liberties" (Columbia JC 36839),which has since been withdrawn from import shops. Clearing the decks with a collection of tracks that's graced various 45s,EPs,promos,& LPs,with a couple of unreleased items,F-Beat have compiled a great tape. If only they would release the 6 track "Elvis Costello at Home"-Honky Tonk demos tapes! This tape is well worth the money. Recommended.



WEE JEANIE-"THE DOLL WITH THE GOLDEN EARRINGS"

CRUNCHY FROG TAPES CF 002

Available from Iain McLean, Crunchy Frog Tapes, 40 Birch Court, Old Monkland Road, Coatbridge, Strathclyde, ML5 5ED, Scotland. £1.20

Very bad quality recording of I'm not quite sure what! I think it's acoustic guitar chords, industrial noise, mumbled vocal chanting, & AM radio broadcasts. It really is extremely difficult to describe. This is undoubtedly the worst tape that Crunchy Frog have on offer. Sorry gang!

THE DOGMA CATS-"LIVE AT THE DOGMA CAFE"/
THE DOGMA DUO-"AT S.C.B.S"

A DOGMATIC CASSETTE DC 0002

Available from 9 Whitecroft Road, Meldreth, Royston, Herts, SG8 6ND 50p + s&e C60

The band blast off with the magnificent "Next door to rhythm". They've a great, chaotic, thumping rhythm section, with plenty of excellent feedback guitar chords etc. They sound vaguely reminiscent of XTC on "You got to pay taxis". The second side sees the 4 piece cats pruned to a duo-with the lads multi-tracking themselves. "Oral disease" is excellent, with plodding fuzzed bass & punchy keyboards. Well worth 50p!





THE REVIEW - "DIG THE REVS"

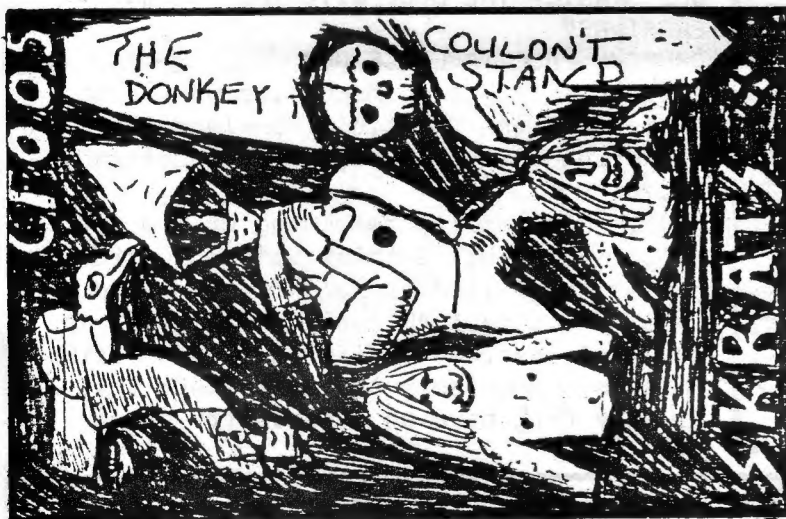
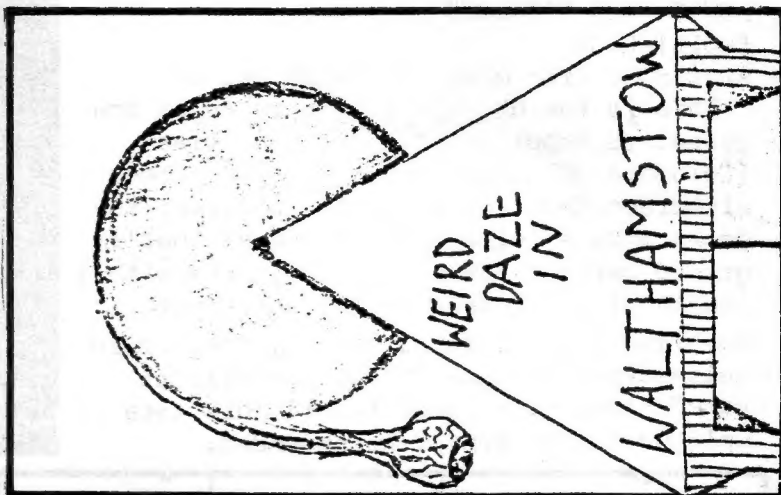
Available from Phil Lovering, Capitalist Enterprise Cassettes, 47 Hallam Road, Clevedon, Avon, BS21 7SE. £1.50 C15

4 excellent songs from Phil's new band, (see X-certs in last issue); all tracks have great guitar hooks, & a driving rhythm section that really pushes the band along. This tape is so good! They have a single "The greatest show on earth" out shortly so keep your eyes open. The band are also available for gigs—phone 0272-872220 & ask for Phil. Hopefully another tape will be appearing shortly. Highly recommended.

WILLIAM HAYTER—"WEIRD DAZE IN WALTHAMSTOW" CONVENTIONAL TAPES CON 007

Available from Tony Clough, Conventional Tapes, 1 Atkinson Court, 2 Kings Close, London E10. £1.37 C45

An interesting tape which features mostly synthesiser playing together with some added guitar effects. The extended piece "Cool scenes from the caveyard" is the best thing on the tape. It lasts for twelve minutes & really sustains interest, building into a most satisfying piece of music. Another good piece is "Henry VIII's bath water", with its drone like quality.



SKATS—"THE DONKEY COULDN'T STAND" CRUNCHY FROG TAPES CF 005

Available from Iain McLean, 40 Birch Court, Old Monkland Road, Coatbridge, Strathclyde, ML5 5ED, Scotland. £1.20

A marvellous experimental band featuring wildly strummed guitar & maniac drumming on what sounds like, either a dustbin lid or a biscuit tin! The whole thing reminds me of the 'Legendary Stardust Cowboy'. As the tape progresses, so does the band—kazoos, singing, whistling, clapping etc. Keep practising the riff lads—it'll come! Grab a copy now, it's well worth the effort.

THE PLAGUE 1980

ALTERNATIVE CAPITALISTS TAPES ACC004

Available from Dave Dixey, 14 Suffolk Close, Wigston, Leicester. £1.25

An excellent 4 piece band who play good rock numbers. The tape is extremely well produced & obviously the band took a lot of care to get it right. "I don't wanna be your clown", blasts along—the band really are professional! They combine the enthusiasm of the punk movement with the skill of their rock predecessors. Hawkwind's "Silver machine" is particularly good.



Alternative Capitalists.

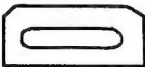

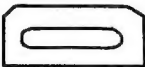

DOING YOUR OWN THING

Alright, you're a total obscure & you can't afford to make a record...or else you know no-one would buy a record of yours because your music is too weird. Apart from playing live gigs to audiences 98% of whom are confused &/or apathetic, you've only got one way of expressing yourself. CASSETTES! For a capital outlay of between £30 & £60 you can have 50 copies of your cassette to spread around. If you've got two tape recorders of decent quality, at least one of which is a cassette deck, then you can duplicate cassettes yourself, buying blank tapes whenever necessary or else by getting people to send you blanks (which is what Deleted Records, amongst others, do). If you want to sell your cassettes then a bank account will be useful to cash cheques & postal orders into. You can manage without a bank account by requesting people to send you uncrossed postal orders or cash, or cheques made out to your name (personal-account). If you do want a business bank account, your bank manager will want to see your certificate of business registration...which you get by writing to: The Registrar of Business Names, Companies House, 55 City Road, London EC1 (tel: 01-253 9393). This can be done postally, or by calling in personally (nearest tube-Old Street), & costs only £1. To register through the mail, first drop a line, enclosing the fee, made payable to the Register of Business Names, to the above address, asking for the appropriate form. Once the registration form is completed & returned, your application will be vetted & it will take about 3 weeks to clear.

I think it's really worth the effort to include a decent sleeve with a cassette, & labels aren't a bad idea either. We do 200 sleeves at a time because bulk photocopying works out so much cheaper in the long run...but only if you're confident of your cassette selling that many copies...but unless it's total crap (& you'd be suprised how many totally crap cassettes there are available right now), you should do ok. But be patient, in our first 3 months of operation we only distributed 1 tape (apart from the ones we sent to people without them asking for them), a year later we did over 360 in the same time. It takes a while for the word to get around, that's all.

You can approach the problem of recording by whatever means are available to you. The Blank Space cassette is totally unrivaled in it's amazing crisp, clear & beautiful sound, but even charging £2.50 for it I doubt that they will ever recover the money spent on 4 & 8 track recording studios... "Debasement Tapes" by the Missing Persons was done by overdubbing from one cassette machine onto another, & represents the ideal for which all other cassettes should strive-it's possible to make a cassette sounding as good as this with modest equipment, so get on with it. Obviously you've got to express your own identity on tape; but noise & distortion = boredom & non-communication. The apparatus used to record the first Deleted Records cassette ("Radio Silence") was amazingly simple, cost about £10, (excluding the tape recorder, stupid! But you can always borrow that) to build. This isn't Practical Electronics so I won't go into details. If you really need to know more, write to me...

It'd be a waste of space, & an unjustified advert for some rip-off artists, for me to give loads of addresses of people who duplicate cassettes. The best thing to do is get a recommendation from someone, or else go into your newsagents & get some music papers & look through the tapes classified ads (you could try Sounds International & Melody Maker). If you're really into zero-profit tapes (hip hip hooray, multiple applause etc), then contact me & I'll give you details of the highly masochistic Protag Tape Copying Service which is incredibly cheap, very human, & also best suited to short-run copying, most bureaux charge a fortune for short runs! All Protag cassettes have a money-back guarantee. The only condition is that I don't want to spend all my time duplicating 'boring awful dirge' cassettes for complete loonies...so please think twice before blowing your Post Office savings on 3 billion copies of "The Sound of Music" backwards through a fuzz-box & an echo chamber. I like wierdness, I hate crap.

Is there anything else you need to know? You can get the dimensions for folding A4 sheets to fit cassette boxes from my Deleted Cassette. Don't bother cutting your labels like this , coz this is ok & easier . We do them on an A4 sheet like this (see  next page), which results  in 7 pairs of labels & a strip of wasted paper down the side. Don't do the sleeves foolscap size or you'll end up with something that won't fit into a cassette box no matter how you fold it (well hardly).

EATING PEOPLE-hints for the housewife

PRINTED BY
LETRASSET

side obnoxious

The Instant Automations

980

deleted records dec003

We glue labels on cassettes with Gloy Studio Gum which gives off an invigorating vapour, whilst you work,& which doesn't make your labels wrinkle when it dries.If you're really smart (& extravagant) you'll have the labels duplicated on sticky-backed paper (tell us where you have it done!)

FLOGGING YOUR CASSETTE

Those heroes of our time,Rough Trade,will take a handful of copies off you,but apart from that...DIY!!! Everyone seems to sell their cassettes by mail order so you'd better get organised.If you do want Rough Trade to sell some, don't forget they need a decent profit margin (rent,rates, electricity,wages,etc,etc) to survive.You might also try Obvious Products who are going to start distribution other people's work.If you release a number of cassettes then your mail-order operation will need to be somewhat sensible...Get some cardboard boxes to put your incoming mail into.Write on each envelope the date of arrival so that no-one's kept waiting because you hadn't realized how long you'd had their letter.If you do your own copying it'll also be useful to write what cassettes are required on the envelope,so you can deal with several of the same tape all at once.

It's 2am as I write this (& I'm listening to a cassette!), which isn't the best time to write a supposedly informative article,but time is very short these days (it's all these bloody tapes you see!).Anyway,I've probably missed out loads of vital information...so write to me & I'll clear it all up !

Protag

DELETED RECORDS-

LOW FARM,BRIGG ROAD,MESSINGHAM,SCUNTHORPE,SOUTH HUMBERSIDE.

- dec 001 "Radio silence-the art of human error" by the Instant Automations. C90
- dec 002 "Magnitizat-the least worse of Deleted Records" by various artists. C60
- dec 003 "Eating people-hints for the housewife" by the Instant Automations. C90
- dec 004 "Electric mouth tapes" by Brian Damage & the Caffeine Kids. C60 (now deleted)
- dec 005 "Menial disorders" by Alien Brains. C90
- dec 006 (now withdrawn)
- dec 007 "First product" by Mic Woods. C60
- dec 008 "Instrument vacation" by Heddon Street W1. C60
- dec 009 "Deleted funtime" by various artists. C90

Cassettes are available by sending a blank tape & sae to Protag at Deleted Records. Lots of others also available,together with everything you ever wanted to know about inaugurating your own cassette label.Please don't forget an sae...

If you would care to place an advert in "STICK IT IN YOUR EAR!" just design it within the box limits (10cms x 7cms-see back page for dimensions) & forward it to us. Shortly before going to press we will send you a postcard requesting the money. The whole magazine is lithoed,therefore logos & designs etc are acceptable-we make the printing plates. But please produce your ad on white paper,as this helps us in the process. The magazine is published quarterly. We print 700 copies & have distribution outlets both nationally via Rough Trade & various individuals & groups around the country,& locally in record shops & by groups.

Advertising rates: 1 box.....£5 2 boxes.....£10 3 boxes.....£15
4 boxes....£20 5-6 boxes....£25 7-8 boxes....£30

For further details contact GEOFF WALL.9 GLADSTONE ROAD,SHOLING,SOUTHAMPTON, SO2 8GU,HANTS. TEL: (0703) 440313

or PHIL TYLER.178 WYNDAM COURT,COMMERCIAL ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON,SO1 OGU,HANTS. TEL: (0703) 31029

TEPID HALIBUT-"THE EARWIG HUNTER (ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK)" TOYS 003

Available from Toys Records & Tapes, 39 Hanway Street, London W1. £1 C30

13 good unrequitted love songs, excellently performed & recorded. All feature some wonderfully zany humour-just listen to "Don't hit me Tony", or "Clive" with his Ford Cortina & other 'attributes' stealing the vocalists' girl. They even do (& I mean 'do') the Beatles "Yesterday" & McTells "Streets of London"! Highly recommended.

MILKSHAKE MELON-"A CASSETTE BY..."

PHUN 4

Available from Cool-Cat-Daddy-0, 28 Mercury Walk, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 5JP. £1 C25

Ten wonderful tracks featuring superb guitar lines which reminds me of those great, early 60's "Spotnicks" instrumental pieces. "Theme de melon/Walk don't melon/What did you do with the body" are really outstanding. The track listing increases as more songs are recorded. It's inventive stuff! Highly recommended.

VARIOUS-"BEAT THE MEAT"

X-CENTRIC NOISE TAPES X1

Available from A. Thompson, 17 West End Road, Cottingham, North Humberside, HU16 5PL.

£1.80 + s&e

A good 27 track sampler (of patchy quality) which is divided into two distinct sides-'Punk' & 'Weird'. It comes with an info sheet on the bands, & all the tapes are individually numbered. The label is looking for demos for a second tape release-so do get in touch.

THE ZIMBABWE BROTHERS-"FRONTIER"

Available from Paul Drew, 32 Charles Street, Barnstable, North Devon. £1 C60

A mixture of tapes & vocals, together with various instruments collated into a hour long pastiche. Obviously the boys set out to really enjoy themselves & as such the pieces work. Unfortunately the recording quality needs a little bit to be desired, but overall the whole thing is acceptable. One point though-the number of people who put the opening credits of the BBC's "Outer limits" series onto their recordings is becoming rather a lot. Do think of something more original!



KLEENEX-"DIE KLEENEX SPIELEN"

Available from Rough Trade Records, 202 Kensington Park Road, London W11, (we suggest you write to them first to see if this tape is still available) £1.50 C40

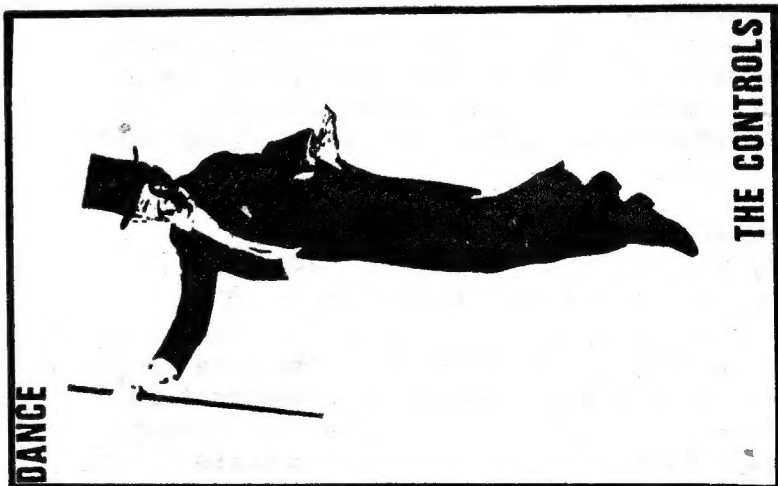
The Swiss all-girl mob with 40 minutes recorded live prior to them splitting up & reforming as "Liliput". Although a little low-fi, the recording is certainly very exciting. They perform both of their singles together with lots of other material, with an enthusiasm & skill that you can only admire. My only criticism is the lack of liner notes & no track listing. Recommended.

THE CONTROLS-"DANCE"

X CASSETTES X003

Available from Chris Green, 91 Swansea Road, Reading, Berks. £1.50

The Controls third tape & whilst the quality of this one is not quite as good as their previous two, there are things that more than make up for it. Recorded basically live there's a wonderful spontaneity about the performance. I think that the second side of the tape is the better, featuring good songs with excellent bass, that really keeps the band together. The songs have some good catchy hooks to them. Buy one!



THE LEISURE SOUNDS ANNUAL

1981

This Annual belongs to

VARIOUS-"LEISURE SOUNDS ANNUAL 1981"

Available from Leisure Sounds,9 Whitecroft Road,Meldreth,Royston,Herts. 75p C60

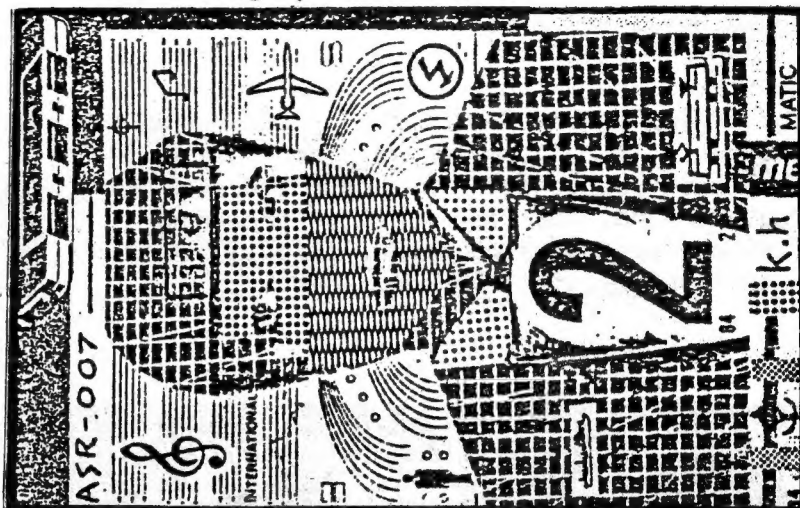
This 17 track sampler tape contains recordings by 8 bands/individuals.The quality of both recordings & material is exceptional.The Outputs "Gymslip mother", together with Ersatz's "other side of the mirror",& Graeme Plunkett's "Anxious times" are definately superior pop songs.Within this tape are some real gems besides those already mentioned.A couple of the bands have already released their own tapes & singles-write to the above address for more details.Highly recommended.

KEVIN HARRISON-"ON EARTH 2"

ASR TAPES ASR-007

Available from Kevin Harrison,39 Winterton Road,Bulkington,Coventry. £1.50 C50

A wonderfully recorded synthesiser tape with lots of overdubs.Parts remind me of the excellent Terry Riley piece,"Rainbow in curved air",whilst others remind me of some of Robert Fripp's output.It's a tape that I've played countless times & will continue to do so.The quality is exceptional-I don't know how long it took to piece together but I hope that Kevin can manage to come up with a second tape that's as good as this.Highly recommended.



A MAJOR EUROPEAN GROUP-"DEAD GOLDFISH DON'T GIVE YOU ANY SMALLTALK"

HANGING SLOTH TAPES 3

Available from 250 Norton Lane,Sheffield, S8 9HD. 70p + sae C46

To paraphrase Stiff records-'if it ain't hanging upside down it ain't worth being rude to'.This is the bands' third tape LP on their own Hanging Sloth label & it's absolutely wonderful.I'm sending off for their previous two! There's real sing-a-long songs,with acoustic guitars,handclaps,rowdy behaviour & superbly bad sax playing.Truely magnificent stuff! Throughout,there is a zany humour which culminates in their live performance in Graves Park.Grab a copy while you can.

THE SEX PISTOLS-"THE HEYDAY"

FACTORY RECORDS DOCUMENTARY TAPE FACT 30

Available from most record shops. £3

Considering that Factory prize themselves on the quality of their products,I can only assume that this tape is a joke.Albeit an expensive one.It's just 2 sides of boring interviews with the band-you've heard it all before.As someone said.'You can't even dance to it'.Spend your money on something else! This is really terrible-I consider it to be a big rip-off! I wonder just how many they've sold.

ATV/GOOD MISSIONARIES-"AN YE AS WELL"

CONVENTIONAL TAPES CON 014

Available from Tony Clough,Conventional Tapes, 1 Atkinson Court,2 Kings Close,London E10. £1.37 C60

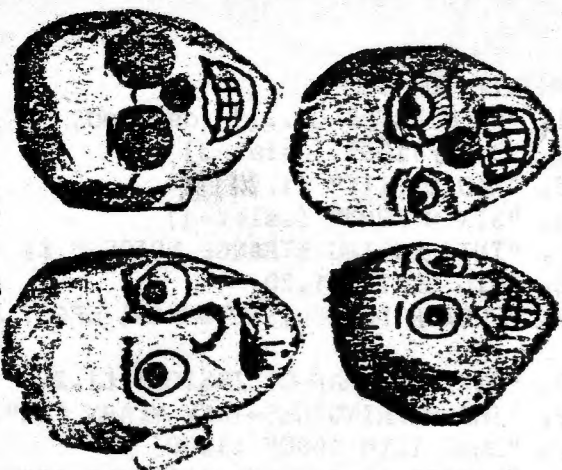
There certainly are quite a number of ATV/Misso's tape currently available,most of which are dubious quality.The sound on this one is patchy,but the performances are great.Recorded live at Queen's College,YMCA,& the Empire Ballroom between early 1978 & May 1979,they feature a multitude of 'stars' (all listed on the comprehensive liner sleeve).The best stuff comes from the Queen's College gig-I wonder why it wasn't released at the time.Tony should now issue it in it's entirety rather than split it up on compilations.

THE FRESHIES

FOR THE LATEST FRESHIES NEWSHEET SEND AN SAE TO-

THE FRESHIES
20 COTTON LANE
WITHINGTON
MANCHESTER
M20 9UX

SAVAGE CABBAGE



'Odds bURNS,
I FRIZZLE

SAVAGE CABBAGE-"ODDS BURNS I FRIZZLE"
CONVENTIONAL TAPES CON 005

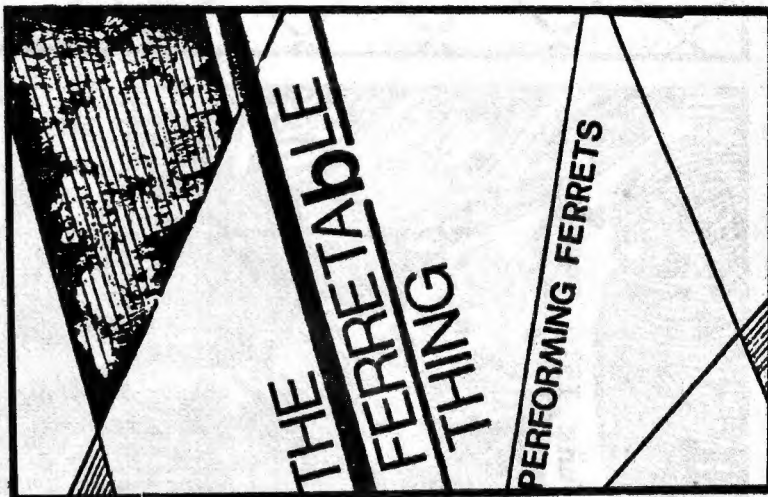
Available from Tony Clough, Conventional
Tapes, 1 Atkinson Court, 2 Kings Close,
London E10. £1.37 C30

This features the boys doing their own
unique interpretations of various pop
'classics'--"Penny Lane/Be-bop a lula/Blue
suede shoes/Satisfaction" together with
some of their own material. I don't think
the expression 'over-the-top' really quite
does the band justice! The violin solo on
"Be-bop a lula is incredible. The rowdy
behaviour of the original is captured!

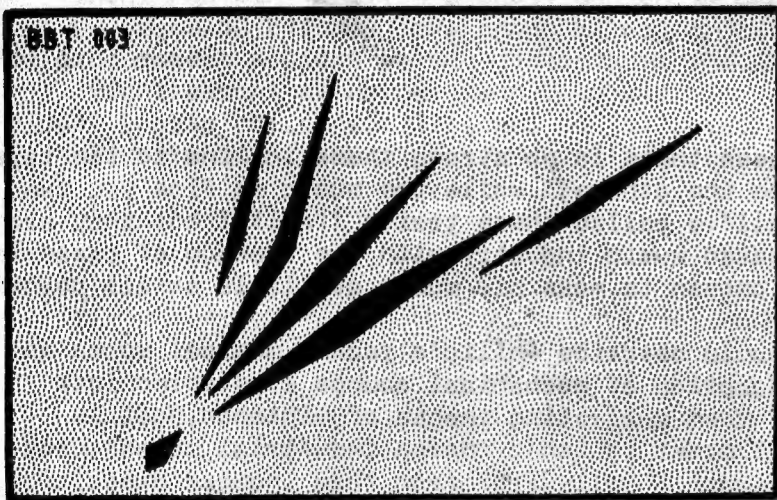
THE PERFORMING FERRETS-"THE FERRETABLE THING"
DEAD HIPPIE TAPES DHC 2

Available from D. Arnold, Dead Hippie Tapes, 19
Westmorland Road, Maidstone, Kent. £1.20 C30

Seven tracks with lots of excellent lead
guitar & a strong rhythm section. More
melodic than Dead Hippie's other band "Stark"
but equally as good! "Develop that river" has
some fine rhythm guitar, whilst "Shi-showw"
really pushes along with a driving, chugging
sound. It's been some time since we've heard
from Dave Arnold so hopefully he's hatching
up some other goodies for future release. The
tape is well worth £1.20. Recommended.



BBT 003



SAM DODSON-"NO ODD MASS IN A VOID"
BETTER BADGES TAPES 003

Available from Better Tapes, 64A Notting Hill
Gate, London W11 £1.50 C60

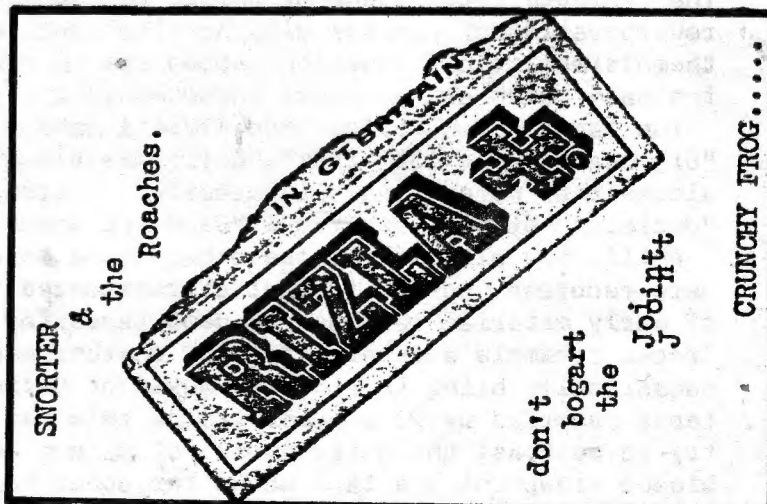
Described as 'bargin basement Stockhausen
with songs for bargin basement weirdos-a
series of experimental ditties! It's really
a collection of tapes, strange noises &
voices, recorded at various speeds. The
synthesiser pieces are well recorded. Infact
the recording quality of the whole thing is
very good. There is another tape available
"No odd mass absurd cartunes" which will be
reviewed in issue 3.

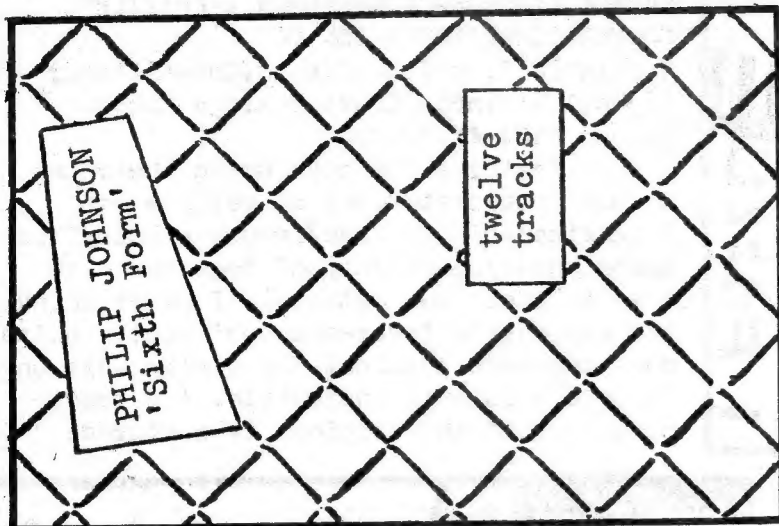
SNORTER & THE ROACHES-"DON'T BOGART THE
JOINT"

CRUNCHY FROG TAPES CF 003

Available from Iain McLean, Crunchy Frog
Tapes, 40 Birch Court, Old Moorland Road,
Coatbridge, Strathclyde, ML5 5ED, Scotland.
£1.20

Acoustic guitar & vocals in the folk/
protest song idiom. Good songs that would
be a lot better if they had been recorded
on better equipment. "Mother/Chaos &
disorder/Disco tune" are really very good.
I look forward to their next tape!





PHILIP JOHNSON-

1. "54 MINUTES OF..." (deleted)
 2. "3.32/1.53" (deleted)
 3. "RADIO CITY" £1.20
 4. "SIXTH FORM" (deleted)
 5. "INTERESTING STRANGE NOISES" £1
 6. "BIG BEAT" £1.20
 7. "FLOWER PERVERTS-STUNNING DEBUT ALBUM" £1.20
 8. "SIXTIES CRAP-DECISSION" £1.20
 9. "THE BARRINGTONS-THEY YEARN FOR" £1.20
 10. "JUNE 15th 1980" £1.60
 11. "SPRATT & LIVO-COMBINATIONS FOR ACOUSTIC FREEDOM" £1.30
 12. "CHRISTMAS ALBUM" £1.30
 13. "THROBBING PARSLEY" £1.20
 14. "ANCIEN REGIME-PER PROCURATIUM" £1.20
 15. "NUMBER FIFTEEN" £1.20
 16. "SPRATT & LIVO-RHYTHM PLAYED ON RAZORBLADES" £1.30
 17. "ANCIEN REGIME-2" (to be announced)
 18. "FILTH" (to be announced)
- Available from Philip Johnson,
5 Hollingbourne Road, Norris Green,
Liverpool 11, L11 3AJ.

There are two major 'faults' in the music of Philip Johnson; first is the fact that, unlike many other cassette musicians, he has found a style of his own (Henry-Cow tripping over Ornette Coleman...) & as he continues to explore deeper into it produces music which is increasingly

better but correspondingly more undifferentiated to the casual listener. The second 'fault' is a direct result of the first; in most cases there is no strong thematic line to the tape so it often lacks an identity separate from the others, & while the music is fine you can never be sure as to which album it belongs. I've called these traits 'faults' but they are only wrong within the traditional record based music industry; with the freedom of cassettes & the proliferation they encourage PJ has chosen to make his music available at all points its development.

If it wasn't for the current poseurs I would describe Philip's recent musical works as futurist, taking its inspiration from the adaption of mechanical sounds & patterns into dense abstract instrumental pieces, many of them suggesting images of violence, hostile loneliness & the 'outsider' of existentialism. Yet it isn't 'harsh industrial noise', uses little in the way of concrete sounds & is almost totally free from tape induced distortion. The characteristic sound of Philip Johnson tape is made by the overdubbing, echoing & reverberating of violins playing occasional notes, keyboards repeating & varying a minor theme, simplistic percussion tapped out on everything except a drum & saxophones which fill the same roles as the other instruments & often play the dominant themes.

The tapes which follow this style & make up the main body of PJ's music are "Radio city", "Big beat", "June 15th 1981", "Christmas album", "Throbbing parsley", "Number fifteen" & two albums that were originally credited to groups who later turned out to be PJ in disguise, "Decision" by Sixties Crap & "Stunning debut album" by the Flower Perverts.

Philip has also done three other tapes which need to be reviewed individually as they were recorded under different circumstances: "Interesting strange noises" is a compilation of early material recorded as demo tapes for independent record companies. The nine short tracks resemble a mutated form of chamber music which, combined with their sparceness, occasionally bring to mind the music of Berio. "Per procuratium" is the first in a series of tapes recorded by PJ & myself, to be released under the name of Ancien Regime, in which we try to contrast the noise aspect of my own work with the rhythmic grandure of his. To my biased viewpoint the tape works for about half of its length, producing some original & effective abstract music. "They yearn for the Barringtons" is the third of PJ's 'group'

tapes under the guise of a failed bedroom punk band. The tape was intended as a parody of its subject but doesn't take the idea far enough to be an effective success.

All the tapes are duplicated in stereo onto TDK-D cassettes. I would recommend all the tapes that Philip Johnson has made, particularly the later ones in which the ideas & motives are more fully explored & a good place to start would be either "June 15th 1981" or "Number fifteen", both of which contain some of the best music I've ever heard on an independent cassette.

P.A.W



EARL HINES—"DUKES FRIEND"

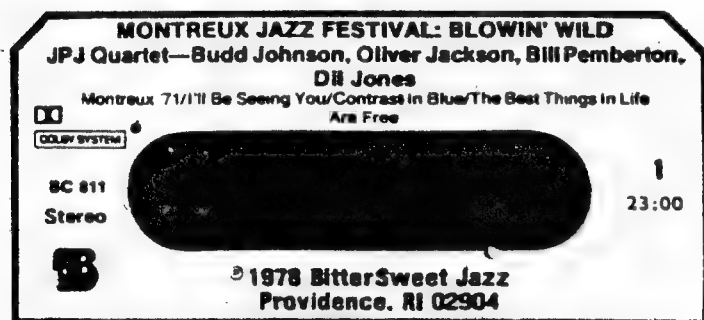
BITTER SWEET BC 802 £2.50 C40

THE JPJ QUARTET—"BLOWIN' WILD"

BITTER SWEET BC 811 £2.50 C45

Available from Mole Jazz, 374 Grays Inn Road, London WC1. (p&p included in price)

These two tapes are part of a series of 11 recordings by Master Jazz, which are now available on cassette. Earl Hines plays the Ellington pieces beautifully. His playing with the excellent Ellingtonian Big Band backing is sensitive & very satisfying. The JPJ 4 tape is exceptional. It's the best I've heard them. These tracks were recorded at Montreux Jazz Festival in 1971. This is the kind of playing that gave Bud Johnson his reputation, & there's some really nice piano from Dil Jones. These tapes come with plenty of good, informative liner notes (except for the lack of personnel info on the Earl Hines tape). We cannot however recommend these tapes, as they both 'flutter'—the trademark of a bad copying process...



VARIOUS—"ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN THE NEXT HALF HOUR"

X CASSETTES X002

Available from Chris Green, 91 Swansea Road, Reading, Berks. £1.50 C70

A fine sampler with two tracks by each of the ten bands. Savage Vinyl's "Plastic foot", The Civis' "This ain't love", The Funboy Five's "Angala Rippon" & The Original Vampires' "Johnny Clarke" are really exceptional. It's well compiled, with informative liner notes. Another good track is Dig dig dig's "Dig dig dig". The Civis' "This ain't love" features some nice horn arrangements. Recommended.



BOLAN REMEMBERED



T. REX

Interviews with Steve Took,
Herbie Flowers & Keith Altham
C80

MARC BOLAN REMEMBERED

VMC1

Available from Virgin Records £2.50 C60

An hour of interviews with several of Bolan's acquaintances (who include Steve Peregrine Took, Keith Altham & bassist, Herbie Flowers). They really reveal little about the bloke that you didn't already know. This tape really is for Bolan fans only! They would be much better off getting in touch with the Marc Bolan Fan Club, who have released so unissued items by him & answer most questions about him.



EUGENE CHEESE-"SEA-SICKS TEA"
CONVENTIONAL TAPES CON 008

Available from Tony Clough, 1 Atkinson Court,
2 Kings Close, London E10. 75p C60

Describes by Tony as a tape full of songs, synths, silliness & novelty recorded over the last 12 years". Listening to the acoustic guitar & vocals, I'm reminded of that minstrel, Patrick Fitzgerald-"Ice rock", & "Supermarket man" are really outstanding. They're full of humour, ridiculous vocals & inadequate guitar playing. Wonderful stuff! I know absolutely nothing about Eugene, except that Conventional Tapes are selling this tape at a bargain price!

THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS-"THE BLAND CRAZE"
BLAND CRAZE RECORDINGS BC 80001

Available from Phil Shaw, 48 Berkeley Road,
Loughborough, Leicester, LE11 3SJ. blank C60 +
sae.

Included on Deleted Records desert island cassette list, & described as-'the best free tape in existence. None of your aural crap here, mate, but a decent band playing decent tunes & singing neat words!'. Worth getting. The bands' second tape "Pre-natal counselling" is available for a blank C60 + sae from Deleted Records, 19 Riby Road, Keelby, Grimsby, South Humberside. Send off for a copy of each.



F GLASS TOAD-"UNT ETHEL'S JUST BEEN DECAPITATED!!"

CRUNCHY FROG TAPES CF 001

Available from Iain McLean, Crunchy Frog
Tapes, 40 Birch Court, Old Monkland Road,
Coatbridge, Strathclyde, ML5 5ED, Scotland.
£1.20

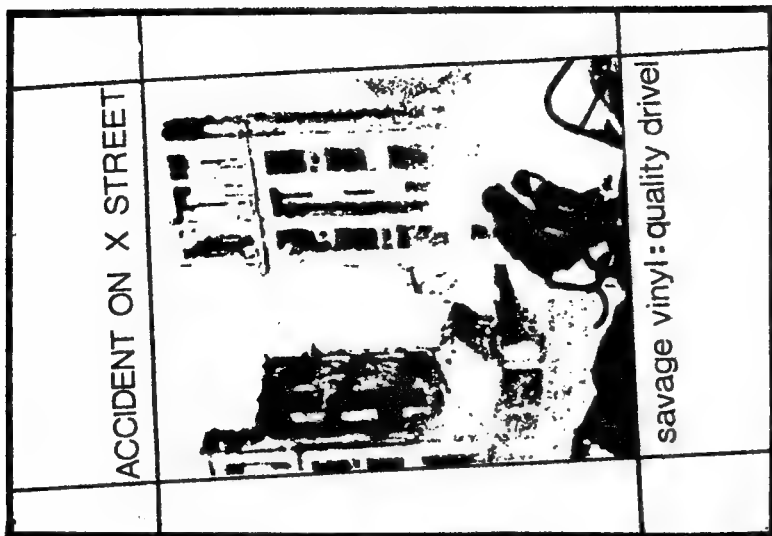
Excellent recording of lyrics being recited over gently strummed electric guitar starts this tape off which then transforms into maniac distorted singing again over electric guitars. This is definately the best tape in the Crunchy Frog catalogue.

NCP + CP + RR-"STYLISTIC ERRORS"
SANC 8

Available from Rob Gillham, Weston House,
Queens Road, Oswestry, Salop. £2 C90

Yet another tape from the expanding catalogue of NCP, & this time it's a sampler with a selection from previous releases, together with some unreleased items. The tape allows the listener to peruse the available music, which ranges from acoustic guitar & vocals/synthesiser & percussive instruments/ electric guitars etc. There's a note 'it's not your ears-no commercial potential'-don't believe everything, this is a worthwhile guide to Rob's work. Recommended.





SAVAGE VINYL/QUALITY DRIVE!-"ACCIDENT ON X STREET"

X CASSETTES X001

Available from Chris Green, 91 Swansea Road, Reading, Berks £1.50 C70

The Savage Vinyl side was recorded live in front of an enthusiastic crowd. It's hard attacking rock, featuring great 'Hendrix' guitar & a driving rhythm section. They really are extremely good! The Quality Drive! side was recorded in a studio & whilst not as good as the Savage Vinyl stuff-it's good punk material. Hopefully Chris will now release some other tapes in the X series; this tape is a fine start!

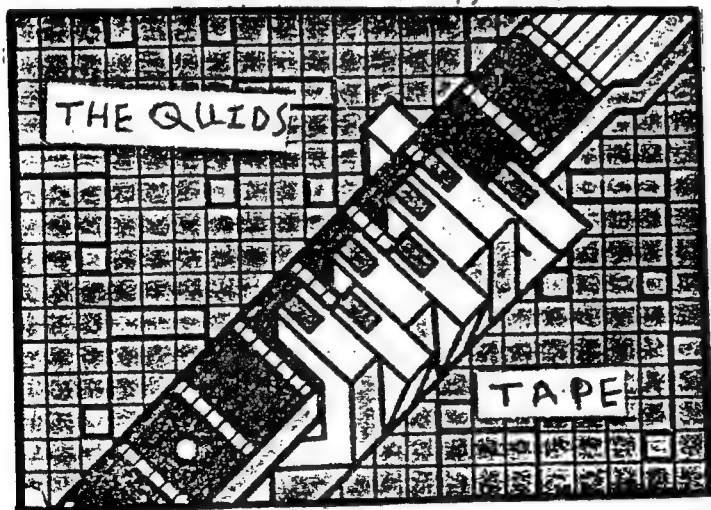
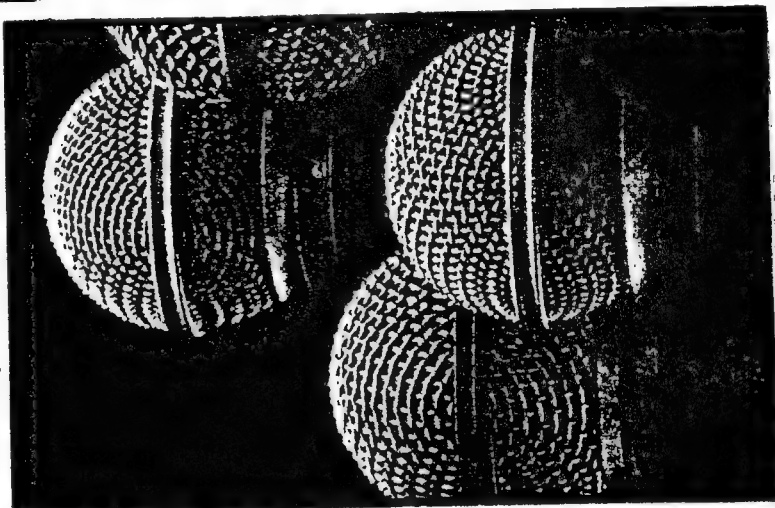
MIC WOODS-"I PLAYED WITH MYSELF"

MONITOR MUSIC MM 1

Available from Mic Woods, Monitor Music, 1A Parry Place, Woolwich, London SE 18 6AN.

£1.17 C60

Tune in to the tuned-up sound of Mic's guitar & vocals! This is the Instant Automaton guitarists' second solo tape LP, (the first being "First Product" DEC 007) & features Mic performing such diverse material as the Sweets' "Oxygene", Bowies' "Panic in Detroit", & lots of his own excellent stuff, On electric & acoustic guitars. It's all excellently performed & recorded - I really like - "I like Devo". Grab a copy now!



THE QUIDS- "THE QUIDS TAPE"

QUID TAPES QUID 1

Available from G. Jenkins, 31 Sovereign House, Cambridge Heath Road, London E1. 70p + s&e C60

'The Quids are 3 young people who don't know how to play their instruments, but that don't stop them from making tapes & selling them. If you think you can do better, you should do the same'-or so reads the blurb! There's lots of industrial sounds & strange musical noises. A second tape "The chaps legs" is also available for £1 from the above address. As the boys so aptly say-'make noise not money'. I believe that they have a third tape LP for release.

NERVOUS NORMAN & NAFFI SANDWICH-"ROCKIN' AT THE NAFFI" RUM 2

Available from Naffi HQ, 157 Queens Drive, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, WA12 0LN

£1.25 C15

This excellent tape features great, greasy vocals, sung over a superb r 'n' b sound recreation. Forget the Stray Cats-these are far more authentic. I'm reminded of those 2 early Rolling Stones LPs, together with those Duanne Eddy classics. The twangs the thang! From reggae to rockabilly-what will RUM 3 hold in store? Highly recommended. This tape is as excellent & as different as their first tape LP (see issue 1).



ABOUT THE B.B.C. & BOOTLEGGERS

I am sure that most people with a cassette recorder have recordings taken from tv or radio programmes.It does appear also that the majority of bootleged tapes for sale are recordings from radio or television.The BBC complains bitterly about the royalties that they are loosing by this illegal trade & are trying to stamp it out.But today more people possess cassette machines than record players,& like the freedom that cassettes provide.If no alternative to the bootlegger is provided,the BBC's problems will increase.

Historically it is fairly well established that when a product is in demand,& that demand is not fulfilled by the expected supplier,as alternative source will develop.If a popular product is in short supply & is made illegal,then a black market will develop.Prohibition in the USA is a well known example of this.

The question is therefore,why is the BBC not suppling this market?

1. Is it that the BBC is a large organisation & it would cost a large amount of money even to think about forming a committee & the back up organisation required,just to examine the possibilities?
2. Is it that the BBC would not be able to compete with bootleggers,who don't have to pay copyright,or have large overheads? As for paying copyrights,the master tapes belong to the BBC.All the masters will have been produced by the BBC,or associated companies & so all the relevant information would already be known.Costs could surely be kept down here.As for overheads,alas I can see that it would be impossible for the BBC to start an organisation on a scale small enough to copy a few tapes & therefore probably only a few popular items would be released.I wonder if they would set up a department to be sure of paying themselves their own copyright money?
3. Because bootlegs are illegal they have glamour,& this is what makes them sell? There may be some truth in this,but to say that about something which has such a wide appeal is ridiculous.I am sure that if these tapes were more widely available,they would sell,(& so is the BBC,otherwise they would not be so concerned).
4. Is it that there is no demand? Why then is so much money being lost to the BBC in royalties.This does not take into account the profits made by selling tapes remember.
5. Perhaps it is not possible to strike a sensible deal with the royalty collection agencies? Surely these organisations would like to receive some money which is now just being lost!
6. Is it that musicians don't want it? Perhaps some of them don't,but as many recordings will be made in homes anyway,& it is another source of income,it seems rather irrational.
7. Is it that the record companies won't like it? I think that this is very likely,as they may feel that the BBC cassettes will compete with their recordings & would feed on some of their promotions.I think that on the other hand,anyone buying a tape of a broadcast would either be interested enough to have already bought the relevant record,if there is one,or could be encouraged by this to do so.It would also enhance the exposure given to an artist.Or could it be that a cassette produced by the BBC might cost less than the extortionate five or six pounds charged for an official pre-recorded release.How prices like these can be justified I just can't understand, until I think of the costs of running a ponderous dinosaur of an organisation.The record companies & the BBC could strike a deal here if the will were there,but is it?

I personally feel that the BBC could not produce tapes efficiently given their present structure,so why not authorise other people to do it?

A network of small independent companies would also be more likely to bring to light any bootleggers.They could specialise in different areas of music,so that,for instance, a piece of contemporary music broadcast on say "Music in out time",could be made available,by a small enthusiastic organisation,whereas it would probably never find its way onto a record.The BBC have large numbers of excellent recordings,covering every part of the musical spectrum,but at present,these are just gathering dust.

I think it's sad to know that if a band has played a session on say,the "John Peel" show,which I have missed,I will be dealing with criminals in obtaining a copy...

P.T.

continued over the page

POSTSCRIPT

During January copies of the above article were sent to the BBC, the MCPS, the JCS, CBS Records, & the Contemporary Music Network. By March only the MCPS & the JCS had replied. Both pointed to copyrights being the main restraint to freeing the BBC's material. A reminder of protests by the JCS at the destruction of jazz programmes, & the lack of a reply, shows the BBC's level of interest in their recorded material. The MCPS want a levy on blank tapes, but discouraging private taping will surely encourage bootleggers & will introduce a black market in blank tapes. But thanks for the reply anyway!

CABARET VOLTAIRE: "1974-1976"

INDUSTRIAL CASSETTE IRC 35

Available from Industrial Records Ltd, 10 Martello Street, London E8. £4 C60

This cassette is a selection of material recorded by Cabaret Voltaire during their earlier & formative years of existence. All the recordings were done in an attic, on a domestic reel to reel tape recorder. "Pity" we're not told when particular tracks were done, or which were on the tape C.V., themselves put out in 1976, but never mind. Judged by the standards of current experimental tapes "1974-1976" is first-class. Most of the music is C.V.'s more exploratory kind. Largely instrumental atmospherics & tape collage rather than songs (like about half of "Voice of America")—the less valuable side of their music I think, but it has all the inventiveness & skill we're used to. It is 'formative' but still very recognisable; main difference in sound between this & the records is less extreme treatments, you can actually recognise clarinet & recorder & the rhythms are blander. The only real flop, "The dada man", an over-formless piece of tape collage, occurs conveniently at the start of side A, & from there on it's plain sailing... other things I'd especially mention are "A Sunday night in Biot" (the most song-like thing here), "In quest of the unusual" & "Fade crisis". Recommended to anyone who likes Cabaret Voltaire &/or experimental cassettes.

RADIO FREE EUROPE: "798"

MIG RECORDS MIG 102

Available from PO Box 5421, Austin, Texas 78763. C46

An American band who've released several cassettes, each a compilation from six months work, though I've heard only this one. The first side is mostly a series of atmospheric instrumental excerpts which fade in, say their piece, & fade away again, none taking much over two minutes to do it... the overall feeling is 'Outer limits'-ish, of strange things, deserted places (especially the thin, high-pitched organ), perhaps deliberately with titles like "Suggested re-entry" & "M-squad" (another early 60's US telly programme), not to mention "Alien day", which breaks this sequence towards the end of the side: a terrifically energised song, blasted out to a less than receptive audience live in Houston. Shame. The other side is more obviously diverse, beginning with "After the hum", in which massed wind instruments surge forward again & again to form a kind of continuous sound, occasionally joined by guitar & distant voices. In places a soprano sax becomes distinct from the rest of the drone, very effectively. After something like fourteen minutes it fades away, & another instrumental interlude the tape finishes with two more songs, live from Austin. "Astral airports" features the chilled organ set against grinding guitars & moaned vocals, & brings the ominous atmosphere of what's gone before to a head with a cry of 'Americans, you're all the same...'. That line is the only information on the cover apart from the track listings etc, too. Unfortunately I can't distinguish more than a couple of other lines. As it ends there's a cut into "Mother's day", RFE sinking into a quicksand of echo with several voices simultaneously & a descending organ line. Gradually an electronic drone can be heard as the music becomes more & more shapeless, till the only appropriate conclusion is an abrupt cut. This is one of the best cassettes I've heard, & I'd really like to hear more, but have had difficulties there. I got my copy of "798" from a friend in America & sent one of my own tapes to MIG in the hope they'd do an exchange, but six months or so later, have still had no answer. I'm still hopeful, & it'd be worth 20p or whatever to write a letter asking... You could also try Rough Trade for their 2 record releases, "History of the invisible dog" (MIG 101, double single) & "It likes you" (regular single). They did have "History..." at one time, though I didn't succeed in getting a copy. I do have "It likes you" on tape, from a John Peel show of last November—altogether more cheerful than anything on "798", snappy almost, similarly good though, I hope you'll all do your best to find out about this stuff so I can get some more of it...

P.J.



DANNY & THE DRESSMAKERS-"39 GOLDEN GRATES FROM DANNY & THE DRESSMAKERS"

WIRED 003

Available from RoughTrade, 202 Kensington Park Road, London W11. £1.75 C60

'Danny & the Dressmakers are now indisputably the best band in the known world. Therefore buy this cassette'-so reads the tape liner! Don't believe it. The band sound like a lot of demented idiots who are really enjoying themselves. The whole thing is about having fun! You may have even heard John Peel play some stuff by them. There are five other tapes also available.

VARIOUS-"EUTHINASIA"

OBVIOUS PRODUCTS OB 005

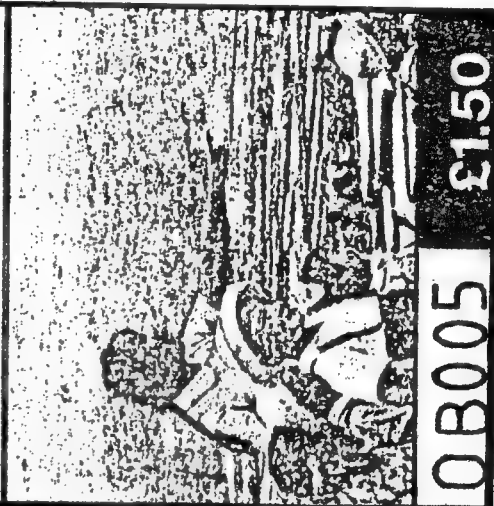
Available from 155 Alderminster Road, Eastern Green, Coventry. £1.50 C60

A curious item from Coventry featuring various pieces by unnamed people. It's another of those strange tapes that are becoming all too regularly obtainable. With lots of strange distorted noises together with recordings of other odds & sods which sound as though they were just dumped together on the tape. If only they would follow a line of constructive thought in piecing these montages together, rather than just release anything.

OBVIOUS

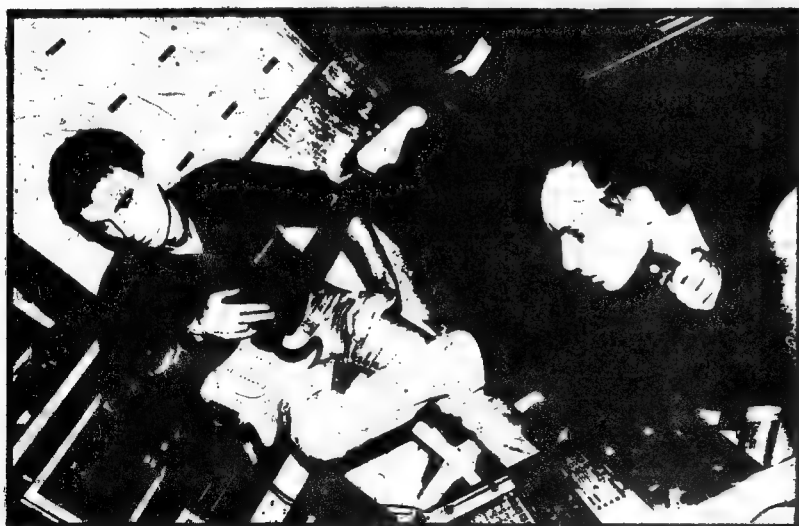
CASSETTE

PRODUCTS



OB005

£1.50



STEVE ASHLEY+ FRIENDS-"DEMO TAPES"

Available from CND, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4 £3 C60

An excellent 12 song tape LP featuring ex-Fairports together with other folk notables. 50% of the profits will go towards CND, & all the songs are concerned with peace & disarmament. Mainly acoustic playing, the standards are extremely high, as is usual with Fairport associated stuff. This is Steve's third LP in as many years-I hope that it won't be as long until the next. It's both a good buy & a good cause! Recommended.

TALKING HEADS FUNK ORCHESTRA-"BROKEN HEARTS & MYSTERY ACHIEVEMENTS" (bootleg) C20 Not available.

The Heads augmented by various Funkadelic members, captured live on their recent world tour at Westfalenhalle, Dortmund, Germany, totally transform "Psycho killer", "Cross eyed & painless", & "Life during wartime", into 20 minutes of the best dance music ever! This even eclipses their recent LP 'Remain in light' (Sire SRK 6095), & I never thought that I'd be able to say that. Hopefully, Sire Records will have recorded most of the tour dates for a future live LP. Thanks to whoever sent the tape. Cheers.



'STICK IT IN YOUR EAR!'

"STICK IT IN YOUR EAR!" is a quarterly magazine.

ISSUE No 3

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Publishing date.....3 August 1981



THE INSTANT AUTOMATONS-"EATING PEOPLE-HINTS
FOR THE HOUSEWIFE"
DELETED RECORDS DEC 003

Available from Deleted Records at the above
address. Blank C90 + sae.

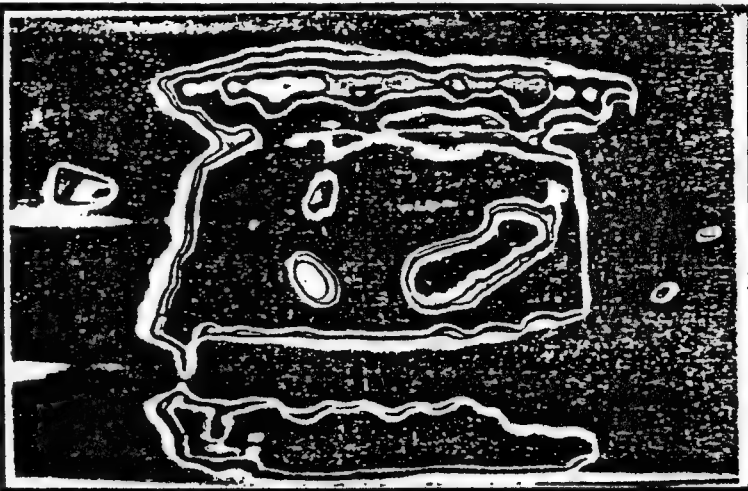
"The machine takes over" is almost disco-
funk, there's a wonderful bass part played
on a synthesiser, together with an airy wasp
counterpoint played over the top. The rest
of the LP follows this high standard-it's
extremely infectious stuff. This tape comes
recommended, so send off your blank C90 for
a copy. A third tape "Blues masters of the
Humber delta C60 or 50p is also available.

THE INSTANT AUTOMATONS-RADIO SILENCE (THE
ART OF HUMAN ERROR)"

DELETED RECORDS DEC 001

Available from Protag, Deleted Records, Low
Farm, Brigg Road, Messingham, Scunthorpe,
South Humberside. blank C90 + sae.

The first recording by the Instant Autos
on their own label-excellently played &
recorded, the band produce a distinct style
that is enhanced by their confusing lyrics.
The tape really requires repeated playing-
more is discovered the more you play it!
Their slogan "Free music" says it all.



THE CIVIL SERVANTS-"THE NOISE FROM BENEATH
THE CARPET TILES"

FLAT RECORDS FLAT 1

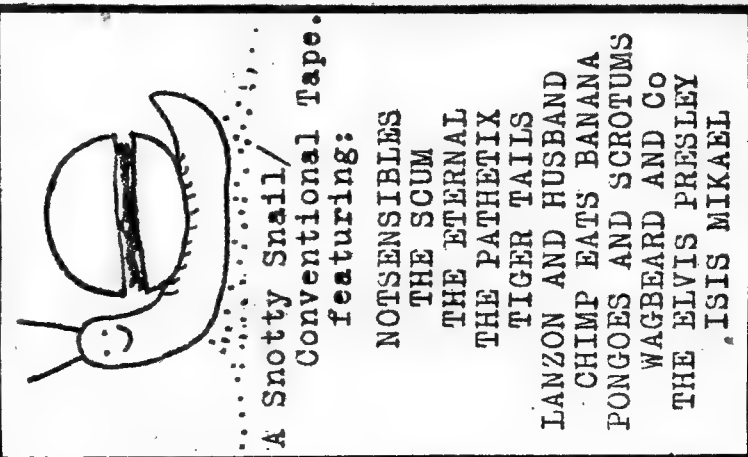
Available from Flat Records, 3 Darwin Court,
Croft Pool, Bodworth, Nuneaton, Warwickshire.
50p + sae C60

Eleven tracks in all featuring lots of
loud, distorted musick which we think is
being played on a synthesiser & guitars,
(both acoustic & electric). It's a little
low-fi, qualitywise, but interesting for all
that. "Alone again" could easily be a
soundtrack for a sci-fi film-it's most eerie.
I'm sure that the band have another tape out
but I've misplaced the info, so write for it.

VARIOUS-"CIGARS ON WEDNESDAY VOLUME 1"
SNOTTY SNAIL/CONVENTIONAL TAPES 1

Available from Tony Clough, 1 Atkinson Court,
2 Kings Close, London E10. £1.50 C60

A joint venture between Snotty Snail Music
& Con Tapes, with the former providing the
music & the later, the money! Lanson & Husband
"Do you still love me", is too good to be true
(a sort of Mike Batt meets Phil Specter!)
Other goodies include 3 numbers from Tiger
Tails; "Wind on you crazy hounddog", by The
Elvis Presley; & "Billy Jacobs at the King",
by the Notsensibles. Contact Snotty Snail,
ring Simon 0282 691084 (for other releases)



MLR—"DELICIOUS SMOKE SCREEN FROM LABBASACK" Available from Tony Davidson, 76 Sullivan Ct, Fulham, London SW6. £1.50 or a blank C60 + sae.

The spirit of those late 60's west coast bands live! Their 4th tape again features those dueling, electric guitars—"Hypocrisy" is 5½ minutes of absolute wonder. "Psychedelik gymkana/MLR song/7000 happy people", are full of blazing guitars & a punchy rhythm section that pushes the band along. Their first LP is now available, "PERSIAN VERSION", at the above address. It's only a limited edition of 500 so hurry. Recommended.

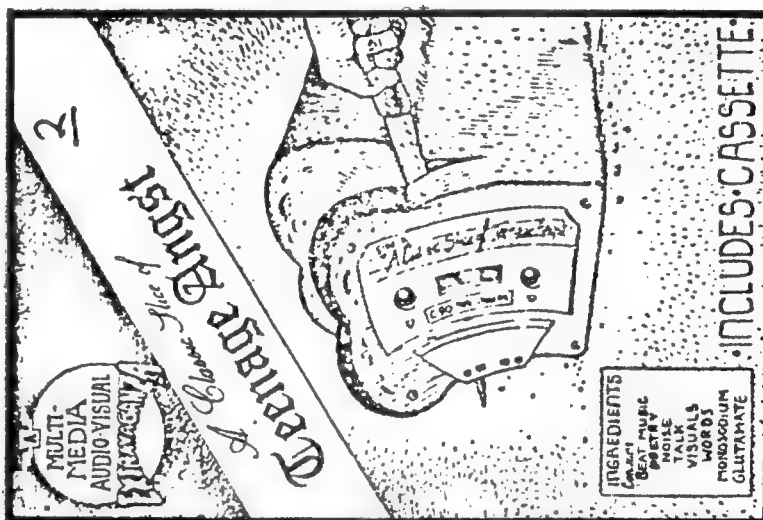
VARIOUS—"A CLASSIC SLICE OF TEENAGE ANGST- No.2"

Available from T. Clough, 1 Atkinson Court, 2 Kings Close, London E10. £1.70 C90

'A multi-media audio-visual extravaganza', or in other words—a 28 page mag + a 9 artist sampler tape! A great idea with the tape as an added extra. What's so good is that the tracks are introduced, & so you don't have to keep referring to the track listing & getting lost. Volume 1 is still available for £1.70 from 30 Knot Lane, Walton-le-Dale, Preston, Lancs, PR5 4BQ. It would be nice if other future compilers would follow the spoken intro idea.

JOHNNY THUNDERS 'LIVING DEAD—"THE SPEAKEASY, LONDON 18.2.78" (bootleg) C90

Sloppy, but magnificent! Johnny & his chums, who include various members of the Only Ones, Eddie & the Hot Rods, & Snatch, barnstorm through their 2 sets at the Speakeasy. Even though the band's under-rehearsed, Johnny's guitar playing is devastating—thick, rich chords with lots of sustain & feedback. Fab stuff. Most of the material is taken off his LP on Real Records, but there are some new songs included to beef up the performance. It's well worth hunting out—thanks to Stuart for a copy of his copy! Cheers.



THE FRESHIES—"ROUGH 'N' READY" RAZZ RECORDS CS4

Available from Chris, who suggests that you try Chris has sold out, buy suggests that you try either Virgin, Rough Trade, or Pinnacle! either Virgin, Rough Trade, or Pinnacle! either Virgin, Rough Trade, or Pinnacle! either Virgin, Rough Trade, or Pinnacle!

Undoubtedly the Freshies best tape to date. 12 wonderful tracks; 5 new & 7 rerecorded. All feature Chris's vocals more upfront in the mix than usual, & a beefing up of the bands' sound, achieved by recording live in the studio. Certainly "My tapes gone" has really benefitted from being redone—always one of their best songs, the 45 version pales in comparison. You can now fully appreciate the extremely clever lyrics. Highly recommended.

VARIOUS—"FROM BRUSSELS WITH LOVE"

LES DISQUES DES CREPESCULE TWI 007

Available from Rough Trade, 202 Kensington Park Road, London W11. £4 C80

From the label that issued the excellent Durutti Column 12" come this tape & booklet featuring such diverse people as Thomas Dolby, Repetition, Harold Budd, Durutti Column, Martin Hannet, The Names, Eno, Richard Jobson, Bill Nelson, A Certain Ratio, Kevin Hewick, Radio Romance, Gavin Bryars, Der Plan, G. Lewis & B. Gilbert, & John Foxx. The whole thing is excellently recorded & packaged as you've come to expect with Factory products. This tape is indispensable!



MUSIC-MOTIVE-MARKET-METHOD

Given the diversity & sheer volume of cassette out-put available currently & the confusion that naturally follows, it is noticable that some people are (cautiously, through fear of being accused of trying to be objective) re-assessing the cassette scene & coming to the conclusion that most of what is put out is pathetic crap. This is a point of view with which I can wholeheartedly agree & further have decided to act upon (see catalogue). But this is not the point.

The current situation in tapes is the same as that of records: people making different sounds for different reasons (there are tons of awful records just as there are tapes, aren't there?) The use of tapes as a medium of distribution of sound has, due to current technology, certain potentialities not found in records, the most basic of which being the most obvious: access to the medium.

Having established a situation where virtually everybody is in a position to 'release an album' we have several possibilities open to us- 1) tapes as a second-class medium used by bands until they can make it into 'the big league'; 2) tapes as an alternative medium (possibly an admission of being second-class medium or simply coming to terms with a lack of 'commercial potential'), or 3) a different conception of music, motive, market & method through the use of tape. The current confusion arises from the fact that all three are currently applicable; groups moving from tapes to dreaded records, individuals obviously as 'good' as those making records but facing the fact that what they are doing would never sell 500 or 1000 records, & those who see the use of tape as having some revolutionary potential-making a tape is seen as threatening to the music press or business, threatening to the government & a vital contribution to the collapse of western civilisation, etc. For all such things to be true, however, would involve a complete change of attitude amongst the not inconsiderable number of people who at this moment do not buy independent tapes.

A change would in fact be needed whereby the whole 'star-syndrome' was brought into disrepute & people instead all created their own music, poetry, etc... Eventually reaching the point where nobody would be concerned with what anybody else was doing as they would be too absorbed in their own creations. Given this situation then the high aims of some tape makers would be achieved: a society of creators. Unfortunately for them this seems unlikely. For example, the idea that an improvement in the quality (whose standards?) of tapes would attract more people. If it did this would make no real difference to anything as the buyers would simply be buying a tape in the same way that they buy a record. If cassettes are to be revolutionary (which they are not) the quality of them must decline to the point where every human being is actively creating regardless, as notions of quality are based on our own relative judgements of our own work & reactions to the comments made by others.

This will never happen as we all have people we like/dislike & to varying degrees at that. "Why pay £6 for an album, when you can listen to wierd noise bands for free?"- simple, some things are worth paying £6 for, & others aren't- & we can all make up our minds about that.

A change from a society of buyers & sellers to a society of mutual activities/ interests may well be a nice prospect but it will not be brought about by releasing cassettes. If it can ever happen (which is doubtful) it needs a far wider movement of ideas to try to change people's whole perception of the context in which things are created & if it did happen you can forget about notions of 'quality' as the old standards will no longer apply.

AMMENDMENTS

1) Looking at this I have not really made my points as clearly as possible-the main point, infact, being lost.

2) It is of course possible to attempt to create a situation whereby as many people who 'create' as possible can be put into contact with others who 'create' & other 'non-creators' who are interested. Again this is a question of attitude not tape v. records, as such a situation (occasionally found now on the tape scene) could well exist with the use of performance, literature, visuals, tapes & records. However, some people will always be more popular than others, whatever happens. Individual genius (damn bougeois concept, etc.) is not dead yet.

THE FUTURE

After this point the activities here will alter depending largely on the response to this article.I am convinced that if the ATV tape,for example,was a record,it would have sold at least 1000 & that the fact that it didn't is largely due to 1) the stigma of 'the tape' & 2) the ignorance of most people to its existence.

Keep listening & creating...

T.C.

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- CON 006 A.Clough-"Transmission 1".C30
- CON 007 William Haytes-"Wierd daze in Walthamstow".C40
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- CON 011 S.Hayes-"Sabracadaver.C30
- CON 012 Stanton Walgrave-"Spamwash".C60
- CON 013 Various-"Mother of punk".C60
- CON 014 ATV/Good Missionaries-"An ye as well".C60
- CON 015 Various-"National grid 2".C60
- CON 016 Various-"A classic slice of teenage angst".C90
- CON 017 Various-"Cigars on Wednesday".C60
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THE DIGITAL DINOSAURS

All available from Chris Sidwell,24 Kempley Avenue,Copsewood,Coventry,CV2 5LP,West Midlands.

"A FINAL TOUCH (SONGS FOR SINKING SAILORS)"
SPOTT RECORDS PUSS 4 £1.25 C60

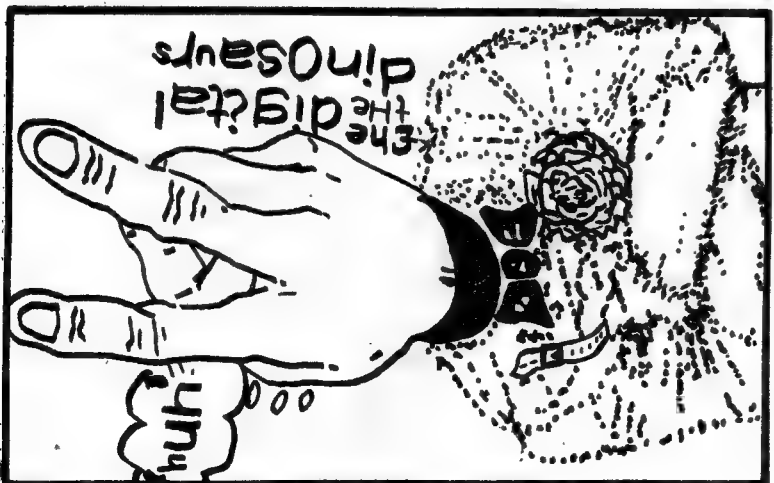
Lots of demented guitar playing & over-the-top vocals,great songs,excellently played & recorded. Just give "Baby snakes" a listen & you're hooked. Psychedelia lives! Also included is a freebie poster-'I have not seen the Digital Dinosaurs play in 1980, but I've seen the tour poster!'

"HUH?"

SPOTT RECORDS PUSS 5 £1.75 C60

The Digitals have been listening to their Beatles' records! In the accompanying note they say that this is their attempt at a pop LP-& the results are superb. "Nuclear nightclub/Hole/Super Ella" are magnificent songs. I won't spoil the surprise intro to "Army green",but all the tracks are linked by excellent pieces. If this is an example of the DDs going commercial,then I'd like more.

Both of the above tapes come highly recommended. Write to Chris for details of the other Digital Dinosaurs tapes that are also available,but please remember to enclose an sae...



COLLECTOR'S CLASSICS

Over the years countless unreleased LPs have achieved a near legendary reputation—some justifiably, & others not so. Occasionally there are a few tapes in circulation & this page will be devoted to finding out if they are really as good as they're cracked up to be. Many thanks to John Clare (the walking music encyclopedia of Henry's Records), for his reviews...

PLAINSONG—PLAINSONG 3" (ELEKTRA)

OLD MAN AT THE MILL/URBAN COWBOY/THE FAULT/SWING DOORS/KEEP ON SAILING/MISS THE MISSISSIPPI/HOME/FIRST GIRL I LOVED/SAVE YOUR SORROWS/NOBODY EATS AT LINEBAUGH'S ANYMORE/THE GOODNIGHT LOVING TRAIL/ALL AROUND MY GRANDMOTHER'S FLOOR.

Plainsong for those of you who are unaware, were one of the great but short-lived British contemporary folk-rock outfits that flourished during the early 70's for a matter of only a few, oh so sweet, moments. There were many other such budding virtuosi about at the time; Eclection, Fotheringay, Pentangle, to name a few, but Plainsong had the advantage of including in its line up, two of the most under-rated, yet 'stalwart' members of the folk scene. Ian Matthews, one time Fairport Conventionist, & Andy Roberts, late of the Liverpool Scene & probably Britain's finest contemporary folk guitar soloist of the lot (easily knocking Jansch, Renbourn, McTell & co., into a cocked hat. Witness this on Robert's magnificent "Nina & the dream tree" LP, if you can ever find a copy). As for Matthews, most of his history has been well publicised. Three very commendable LPs with Southern Comfort, 2 solos for Vertigo, 2 masterpieces for Elektra in "Valley hi" & "Some day the bear eats you...", 3 for CBS, 3 for Rockburgh & "Gospal oak" for B&C somewhere along the way.

Plainsong made but 2 LPs sadly. The magnificent "Amelia Easheart", which ranks alongside Fairport's "Liege & lief", Pentangle's "Basket of light", & Fotheringay's only LP, as a British contemporary folk-rock classic & this second LP, which was tragically never released, although most of it appeared in re-recorded form on Matthew's 2 Elektra LPs & Robert's "Urban cowboy". Matthews dominates the LP, taking lead on 7 of the tracks, so that it sounds more like an Ian Matthews solo LP than "Amelia" on which Roberts' talents got a bit more airing. Of the Roberts tracks featured here, most of them are of a country flavour, the band having moved to the States, & pointing towards the direction that he was going to move on to with his disappointing "Urban cowboy" LP & disastrous "Great stampede" LP. Matthews on the other hand, went on to produce his 2 finest solo albums, both including some of the songs featured here, & gained some sort of recognition in the States, whereas Roberts faded into obscurity. There is some very tasty guitar playing on this LP, but even so, you're never sure whether it's Roberts or Dave Richards (a problem which used to infuriate me in Pentangle with Renbourn & Jansch). However none of the guitar playing here comes anywhere near the breathtaking standard on Roberts "Nina" LP.

I found this a very enjoyable & interesting LP & an essential part of the history of British contemporary folk-rock, had it been released. I'm glad Matthews earned himself some recognition, as he always deserved it. He may have had the sweeter voice, but Roberts had the talent in his fingers. Where is he now?

In the next issue John reviews Arthur Lee's unreleased 1973 "Black Beauty" LP on the Buffalo label...

GAMES TO AVOID—"PALINDROMES AT THE VICTORY"

Available from Roger Lifton, Background Music, "Hollywood", 78 Bursledon Road, Bitterne, Southampton. £1.20 C25

This was recorded at the Victory pub, Southampton, 18.2.81 & showcases the trio blasting through six numbers. The lead-rhythm guitar (plus a little echo) flits over the top of an exceptionally good rhythm section, providing music that cries out to be danced to. It's impossible not to dance to them when they play live! The guitar is continually changing direction with it's buzz-saw sound—excellent stuff.

SARAH HOPKINS & PAUL BURWELL—"INTEGRATION"

Available from Paul Burwell, 11 Lambs Conduit, Passage, London WC1. £2.50 C45

A fine LP cassette featuring the Australian cellist, Sarah Hopkins, together with Paul Burwell on percussion. This is a quite remarkable tape in both quality & performance. Both artists have earned reputations as performers & composers of new & experimental works & have jointly produced this tape with it's three extended & one shorter pieces. Both explore textures, tones, rhythms which provides a most satisfying feeling. Recommended.



THE LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN...LIVE!

THE LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN-"LIVE!"
(bootleg) C20

Having seen the band live at B'mouth's Exeter Bowl twice, this tape (recorded for a John Peel show session-17.11.80), is a disappointment. It sounds too clean! Live, the band produce an attacking, dense sound, with lots of diving & soaring Frippriffs, over a thumping rhythm section. That power just isn't here! Also just as the band begins to cook they come to an abrupt halt. The tape does give a chance to fully appreciate the technical complexity of their difficult time structures, & Barry Andrews' work is a joy. Anyone got any live tapes of the band?

GAMES TO AVOID-"LIVE AT SOUTHAMPTON UNIV"
Available from Background Music, "Hollywood",
78 Bursledon Road, Bitterne, Southampton,
Hants. £1 C15

An excellent quality 3 track cassette EP from this powerhouse trio (containing their stage favourites-"Nature nurture/Truth game/Places") all recorded live at So'ton Univ in Oct 1980. It features great, abrasive rhythm/lead guitar, subtle bass lines, & solid drumming that really drives the band along. It's essential you see them live! Available for gigs-phone (0703) 446900. Highly recommended.

VAMPIERNAACHT-"THE GOLDEN NUDE"
EXISTENTIALIST TAPES E2
Available from Gary Corben, 18 Bethia Road,
Queen's Park, Bournemouth, BH8 98D, Dorset
£1.50 C35

The bands' second tape which marks their demise. An experimental band who had a more abrasive ATV/Bahaus style. Although it sounds a little low-fi, some of the pieces are surprisingly danceable. The tape is musically interesting, but quite a disappointment in the vocal department! As the band have now split-we're not sure if the tape is still available so perhaps it would be best to write first.

PAUL BURWELL-"A MUMMIFIED PERSON WITH A PLEASANT SMILE..."
Available from Paul Burwell, 11 Lambs Conduit Passage, London WC1. £2.50

Another excellent cassette from Paul who this time performs solo percussion pieces. Producing unusual & complex sound textures by an assortment of percussive instruments & effects he creates an improvising piece of great tension. Again the quality of both recording & performance is exceptional. Try to also hear his other tape with the cellist Sarah Hopkins. Both are well worth getting! Highly recommended.

THE NIGHT THE GOLDFISH DIED-"CASSETTE SINGLE No 1"

Available from Paul Greenaway, 64 Moorland Rd, Fratton, Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 5JA C10

A three track single cassette with poetry recited over a guitar & bass soundtrack. It's very low-fi qualitywise, & extremely difficult to understand the lyrics. The liner states that it's a free cassette single, but I think that it would perhaps be better to write to the duo to see if the offer is still open!

1 INDEX	TITLE	2 INDEX	TITLE
	BLACK CITROËNS		
	LATE CALLERS		
	LEVEL OF EYES		
	HEAD ON A STICK		
	THISTHUMPING--		
	SILENCE		
	FEAR		
	IT SAYS IT ALL		
	I'M SO TIRED, BORED		
	AND SICK!		

THE GOLDEN NUDE

ARNOLD N GRIMSTEAD-"WILD THINGS"
Available from No Man's Music, 12A Mortimer Road, Botley, SO3 2EN, Hants. £1.50 C30

The mysterious Arnold N Grimstead's first of many tapes of electronic music to emerge from Botley. Recorded on a synthesiser with what sounds to be some short wave noise & an echo unit-it's certainly the best of the experimental electronic tapes that we have recieved. The quality is extremely good (on most of these sort of tapes the recording quality is awful) & he's obviously taken a great deal of care in the recording!

DUB'ALLUP-"DUBITUP MOOSE STYLE!"

Available from Martin Brisland, 2 Cerne Close,
North Baddesley, Hants, SO5 9GX
£1 or a blank C60 + sae

Wonderful reggae. Thirty minutes of live
ecstasy recorded in Feb 81, & thirty minutes
of excellent studio recordings from Sept 80.
The sound is so good! The tightness of the
band is made even more remarkable as they've
only been together since summer 1980.
"Motivation/Up Wareika hill/Storm/Vox humana"
are superb. They produce infectious dance
music! This tape is essential-as are their
gigs. Highly recommended.

**ANOTHER PRETTY FACE-"I'M SORRY THAT I
SCREAMED..."**

CHICKEN JAZZ JAZZ 2

Available from Mike Scott, 1st Flat, 16 Cadzow
Place, Edinburgh, Scotland £1.70 C40

A collection of various tracks from live
gigs & their regrettably unreleased Virgin LP.
Mike Scott not only possesses a fine voice
but he writes great songs. "Graduation day/
Lightning that strikes twice" are two fine
examples, both starting slowly, gradually
building up to a powerful crescendo. The real
highlight must be "Out of control" with it's
controlled feedback & great drumming. Superb
stuff. Buy a copy now-highly recommended.

The cassette is ideal for distributing little known, or minority interest music, as
any good enough taped performance can be copied in small or large numbers, easily & as
required. No expensive record cutting or complex manufacturing processes are needed,
& many people simply copy them as asked & sell them at gigs, through specialist shops,
or through the post. The cheapness of tapes not only gives excellent value for money,
but it provides an alternative forum that is accessible to everybody.

Another interesting aspect of the 'DIY scene', is the way in which it gets people
communicating; a kind of pen-pal club. Indeed this is even encouraged by artists
preferring to swap tapes for other people's work! It gives the musician some exposure
while retaining his freedom, & gives the listener access to a wealth of interesting
music.

The cassette scene is both thriving & fascinating, so please help it to grow!

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(SONGS FOR SINKING SAILORS)"

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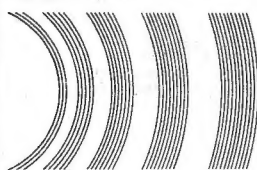
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